

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 011020  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:RPOST:PCS  
APPROVED BY AF:RPOST  
AF:WCHARROP (SUBSTANCE)  
-----017488 150014Z /75  
O 150001Z JAN 78 ZFF4  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011020

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SO ET US

SUBJECT: MILITARY SPARE PARTS

THE SECRETARY HAS DECIDED THAT WE CANNOT, AT THIS TIME, PERMIT THE SHIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA OF THE SPARE PARTS NOW IN POSSESSION OF ETHIOPIA'S FREIGHT FORWARDER OR THE SWIFTSHIPS. WE ARE SEEKING TO STALL OR DELAY THE SHIPMENTS RATHER THAN CANCEL THEM AND WILL BE INVESTIGATING HOW BEST TO DO THIS. MEANWHILE, WE HAVE TO DEVISE THE MOST PALATABLE WAY TO PRESENT THIS TO THE ETHIOPIANS. WOULD LIKE YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING THE FOLLOWING DEMARCHE TO THE ETHIOPIANS:

FOLLOWING THE TERMINATION OF THE US-ETHIOPIAN ARMS SUPPLY RELATIONSHIP, THE US CHARGE INFORMED CHAIRMAN MENGISTU IN JUNE THAT THE US WAS WILLING TO PERMIT THE COMPLETION OF THE ONE COMMERCIAL CONTRACT COVERING MILITARY ITEMS IN THE PIPELINE, THE SWIFTSHIPS, AND TO  
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PERMIT DELIVERY OF THOSE ITEMS ALREADY IN THE POSSESSION OF THE FREIGHT FORWARDER. WE HAD EXPECTED THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD MOVE PROMPTLY TO EFFECT THESE DELIVERIES. IT NOW APPEARS THAT DELIVERIES HAVE IN FACT NOT YET TAKEN PLACE.

SUBSEQUENT TO THAT TIME, THE WAR BROKE OUT IN THE

OGADEN. WE IMMEDIATELY MOVED TO SUSPEND THE AGREEMENT WE HAD EARLIER GIVEN TO SOMALIA TO SUPPLY DEFENSIVE ARMS SINCE WE DID NOT WANT TO BE INVOLVED ON EITHER SIDE OF THE FIGHTING. STILL LATER, THE SUPPLY OF SOVIET ARMS TO ETHIOPIA WAS ESCALATED THROUGH THE MOUNTING OF AN AIRLIFT. THIS AIRLIFT HEIGHTENED OUR CONCERN OVER FURTHER ESCALATION OF THE FIGHTING AND CONFIRMED OUR RESOLVE TO OPPOSE A FURTHER ARMS BUILD-UP BOTH PUBLICLY AND PRIVATELY AS UNDERMINING EFFORTS TO MEDIATE A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. THE DELIVERY TO EITHER SIDE OF US MILITARY OR MILITARY-RELATED ITEMS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE INCONSISTENT WITH OUR POLICY OF OPPOSING THE INTRODUCTION OF FURTHER ARMS INTO THE AREA BECAUSE OF THEIR ADVERSE EFFECT ON NEGOTIATION PROSPECTS.

WE HOPE THAT THE EPMG WILL UNDERSTAND THAT UNTIL NEGOTIATION RATHER THAN FIGHTING IS UNDER WAY, IT WOULD BE CONTRARY TO OUR HOPES OF STIMULATING A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT FOR US TO PERMIT THE DELIVERY OF ITEMS DESIGNED TO CONTRIBUTE TO COMBAT. WE ARE NOT, OF COURSE, CONTESTING TITLE TO THESE ITEMS AND, AS SOON AS CONDITIONS PERMIT, DELIVERY MAY PROCEED. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPARE PARTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978STATE011020  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** MILITARY SPARE PARTS THE SECRETARY HAS DECIDED THAT WE CANNOT, AT THIS TIME, PERMIT THE SHIPMENT TO ETHIOPIA OF THE SPARE PARTS  
**TAGS:** MASS, SO, ET, US  
**To:** ADDIS ABABA  
**Type:** TE  
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